

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE : 5 FEBRUARY 2002

DRUG EDUCATION FOR ANCILLARY STAFF

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To advise elected Members of and seek their approval for a proposal to add to the range of initiatives to tackle the problems of drugs misuse.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The range of services provided by the Department of Educational and Social Services is described in the committee paper of 18 September 2001 "Children's Change Fund Allocation for Tackling Drugs and Associated Drug Rehabilitation Initiatives".

That paper describes the following proposals:

- The appointment of a Drugs Officer to work with non attending secondary age pupils to provide professional support and expertise and to develop local strategies to address the issue of drug misuse.
- The appointment of a School Drug Education Officer to ensure a co-ordinated approach to drug education within schools and to liaise with other agencies involved in drug education.
- The appointment of a Parental Drug Misuse Officer to develop and deliver services to children whose parents/carers misuse drugs.
- The appointment of a post to the East Ayrshire Carers Centre (Young Carers Project) for the provision of services to identified young people whose parents misuse drugs.
- The purchase of a range of curricular materials and training for schools, for community and voluntary groups.

- 2.2** The Scottish Executive in consultation with the Association of Directors of Education has agreed a further allocation of £23,272 to East Ayrshire for Drug Education in Schools for session 2000-2001.

- 2.3** The existing School Drug Education Strategy includes:

- The provision of curricular materials (What's the Score?) to all schools for drug education.
- Two teachers including the Head Teacher from each primary school trained through the Scotland Against Drugs Primary School Teacher Training Initiative.
- Five teachers from each secondary school to be trained through the Scotland Against Drugs Initiative for Secondary Schools.
- An enhanced staffing allowance of 0.2 FTE to each cluster to facilitate evaluation and monitoring of their drug education programme, to ensure that the written procedures for managing incidents of drug misuse are in

place and to develop effective welfare policies on the management of incidents of drug misuse.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 It is proposed to add to the existing Drug Education Strategy by providing training in drug awareness and in the management of incidents of drug misuse to non-teaching staff in schools and to others who deal with young people of school age in informal community settings.

3.2 The training will be provided to:

- school janitors
- community centre supervisors
- classroom assistants
- project, youth and home link workers
- school librarians, school chaplains and parent helpers.

3.3 The training will:

- provide facts about drugs and their risks
- inform about the current drug scene and trends in drug taking
- inform about young people's attitudes to drug taking
- inform about drugs and the law
- inform participants of East Ayrshire's policy on drug education
- train participants in East Ayrshire's guidelines on managing incidents of drug misuse.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Scottish Executive has released £23,272 to the Council for this proposal.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that elected Members:

- i) endorse the addition of the training outlined in this report to the Council's range of initiatives to tackle the problems of drug misuse and;
- ii) refer the report to the Social Work Committee, for its interest; and
- iii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JS/MR
15 January 2002

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- i) Education Committee Paper : Children's Change Fund Allocation for Tackling Drugs and Associated Drug Rehabilitation Initiatives. Report by Director of Educational and Social Services (18 September 2001).
- ii) Letter from Scottish Executive : Drug Education in Schools 2000-2001 (17 October 2001)

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, (01563) 576089

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER : GRAHAM SHORT

AGENDA